

# • C o u n t e r p o i s e •

## The Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon

Volume XLVIII

November 2007

Number 11



Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon meets every 2nd Thursday at 7:00 pm at the First Lutheran Church of El Cajon. The address is 867 South Lincoln Ave. Next meeting:

November 8, 2007 7:00 pm

### Table of Contents

From The President	Page 2
Meeting Minutes	Page 3
From The Vice President	Page 4
Calendar of Events	Page 4
Membership Application	Page 5
Fun Page	Page 6
Ham Spot Light	Page 7
Joke	Page 7
Editor's Corner	Page 8
Crest Museum	Page 9
Chicken Noodle Soup	Page 10
Testing and Classes	Page 11
Amateur Radio at Large	Page 12
Membership Report	Page 12
Fire Station Photos	Page 12
Reports Continued	Page 13

All Official written communication is to be submitted to:

A.R.C.E.C. P.O. Box 50, El Cajon, CA 92022

The Counterpoise is a publication of the Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon (ARCEC). It is published once monthly and contributions are accepted from officers and members of the club. We also encourage input from members of the Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon. Opinions expressed are solely that of the author and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon (ARCEC). Articles may be submitted either by e-mail or mail to the editor.

Paul Rios at:

WA6BGScounterpoise@cox.net or by post  
1237 Victor Ave #4, El Cajon, CA 92021

The Deadline is Sunday after the General Meeting.

Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon

Web Site: <http://www.wa6bgs.org>

Counterpoise E-Mail address

WA6BGScounterpoise@cox.net

## Homebrew & Nominations Happy Turkey Day



November's Meeting

Homebrew Contest

Nominations

## 2007 Officers

President	KC6QLS	Paul Rios	593-9445
Vice-President	AI6O	Ed Felter	668-0928
Secretary	N6OPH	Mike Maston	296-9067
Treasurer	KG6JCW	Mike "Stogie" Panger	263-4439

## 2007 Board of Directors

Affiliated Clubs	AE6AV	Larry Plummer	460-1818
Instructor	AE6QW	Gordon Shackelford	561-6323
Membership	KC6TBG	Ann Rios	593-9445
Net Manager	KG6TDP	Mike Oberbauer	444-9090
Public Service	N6NKJ	Rich Beisigl	444-5465
Social	KD6PRV	Anselmo Ruiz	574-0720

## 2007 Standing Committees

Bylaws	OPEN		
Club Attire	K6PKS	Paul Schmidt	733-2284
Counterpoise Editor	KC6QLS	Paul Rios	593-9445
Education	N6OPH	Mike Maston	296-9067
Elmer	WA6L	John Graf	368-7413
EOC H2O District	KF6XY	John Cordle	697-2700
Estate Sales	N6JOJ	Tom Myrick	449-3547
Field Day	AI6O	Ed Felter	668-0928
Health & Welfare	OPEN		
Historian	OPEN		
Photographer	KI6EEL	Bridget Rios	
Post Mistress	KC6TBG	Ann Rios	593-9445
Prizes	AF6BC	Floyd Lang	303-6711
Public Relations	KC6QLS	Paul Rios	593-9445
SANDARC Delegate	K5WFW	Len Fulbright	258-1322
Swap Meet	N6JOJ	Tom Myrick	449-3547
Technical	W6RHV	Bob Boehme	448-4728
Ticket Lady	KI6EEK	Lisie Rios	
WA6BGS Trustee	AE6CQ	Michael Martak	562-6477
WAMO	W6CCM	Erich Bennett	401-7332
Web Master	KC6QLS	Paul Rios	593-9445
Welcome	KI6JUD	Linda Weed	971-1535

## Staff and Writers

KC6QLS	Paul	Editor
AI6O	ED	Vice President
N6OPH	Mike	Meeting Minutes
KI6FIH	Tassy	HAM Spot Light
AE6CQ	Michael	WAMO
W5COM	Tom & Lisie	Jokes
N6NKJ	Rich	Amateur Radio at Large
WA6L	John	Down Below in EC
WA6MHZ	Pat	Crest Radio Museum
KI6EEL	Bridget	Photos

## SANTEE DRIVE-IN SWAP MEET

10990 Woodside Ave., North  
FOR INFORMATION, CALL 449-SWAP  
Ham Radio, Computers, Electronics  
ACRES & ACRES OF BARGAINS  
1st & 3rd Saturday of the Month  
**GATES OPEN 6:30 AM**

## From The President

**Paul KC6QLS**



I would like to thank the members of the ARCEC for allowing me to serve as President. During this past year, the ARCEC has had the opportunity to promote amateur radio as both a hobby and a service through the San Diego (Del Mar) Fair, the El Cajon Fire Station Open House and the Mother Goose Parade. We had a very successful Field Day led by our Vice President, Ed AI6O, and added some more fun to that with our club Field Day t-shirt contest. ARCEC members volunteered their time and helped out during the recent fires through their service in various clubs and organizations in our community.

The ARCEC also tried to help the VIP Red Flag Patrol Program by attempting to obtain funds to purchase amateur radio equipment for this program through the appropriate club channels. At the August 9, 2007 meeting, the ARCEC voted to take a proposal for \$2,100.00 to SANDARC and make a request for funding to purchase amateur radio equipment to be used by the VIP Red Flag Patrol Program. The ARCEC proposal was presented to SANDARC at the August 30, 2007 SANDARC Council Meeting.

As most of you know, SANDARC is the San Diego Amateur Radio Council, and it is made up of various amateur radio clubs. The member clubs send their delegates to SANDARC Council meetings on the last Thursday of the month. SANDARC has its own set of Bylaws, which require that any proposals having to do with money over a certain amount must be taken by club delegates back to their clubs for direction and a club vote. Then the club delegates return to the next SANDARC meeting and vote according to the direction of their club and how their club wants to vote on the issue. This past year our SANDARC delegates have been Larry Plummer AE6AV and Len Fulbright K5WFW, with alternates Steve Weed KO4QT and me.

As SANDARC Bylaws require, the ARCEC proposal was presented to SANDARC, taken by delegates back to member clubs for review, consideration and a vote, and then a vote on the proposal was held at the *Countiued Page 13*

## Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon

General Membership Meeting  
11 October 2007



The general membership meeting of the Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon was called to order by the club president Paul Rios, KC6QLS at 1907 hrs. EDUCATION report was made by Mike, N6OPH. There are two more class sessions for the extra theory course as taught by Gordon, AE6QW. The Technician theory course will start on the second Tuesday of January, 2008. Mike, N6OPH would be the instructor.

SECRETARY'S report as published in the *Counterpoise* was approved as written.

TREASURER Stogie, KG6JCW gave his report. It was approved as read and filed for audit.

PRESIDENT Paul, KC6QLS announced that the formation of a nominations committee needs to be accomplished this evening. There would need to be four committee members and the fifth would be last year's chairman. Nominations would be announced at the November meeting and then nominations from the floor would ensue. At the conclusion of the nominations, the elections would be held during the December meeting. The members of the nominations committee are Earl Davis (last year's chairman), Ann, KC6TBG, Floyd, AF6BC, Rich, N6NKJ and Steve, KO4QT. Rich, N6NKJ will serve as chairman.

Paul explained the procedure for the "Ham of the Year" for 2007. The nominations for Ham of the Year will be collected at the conclusion of the November general membership meeting. Paul has devised a form for use in the ham of the year nominations.

Paul, KC6QLS introduced our guest speaker, Gordon AE6QW who spoke on "third order dynamic range in HF receivers."

After the break, the business portion of the meeting continued.

Silent auction item is the Technician License Manual by the ARRL. The winner of this auction was Dan, N6ERD.

Paul explained what happened to the CALFIRE proposal. The proposal was defeated by SANDARC. There was discussion regarding the defeat of the ARCEC proposal. Bob, W6RHV

presented statistics regarding the club membership and total ham operators within San Diego County over the last twenty years. There has been a tremendous loss of membership in all of the clubs within SANDARC and other non radio clubs as well. This is also prevalent nationwide. Paul, KC6QLS asked for general donations from the membership and others to purchase the necessary equipment for CALFIRE. Paul collected \$100 from the members this evening towards this goal. The president of SURF would be willing to donate about \$1000 towards the purchase of radio equipment for CALFIRE and thus bypass SANDARC on this issue.

Paul reported on the progress of the ARCEC participation in the Mother Goose Parade. Paul reported that there is a trailer ready for work for the parade. Work would begin on 19 October in El Cajon at 1900hrs. (Carl's Jr. on Second Street) Counterpoise deadline is 15 October.

The open house at the firehouse was a tremendous success. Wooden code oscillators were constructed and given away during the open house.

Ed, AI6O reported that the Home Brew Contest will be the topic for the November meeting. The December meeting will be the elections.

Mike, KG6TDP reported that there about 15 members who work the WAMO nets.

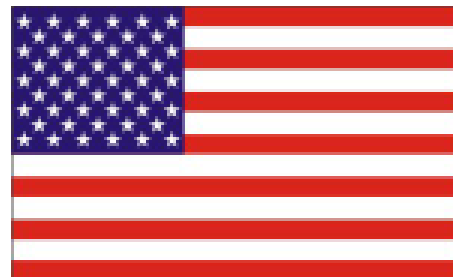
The Christmas dinner will held at the Home Town Buffet on 18 December.

MEMBERSHIP is currently at 265 and tonight's attendance is 38 with no visitors.

There being no further business before the general membership, the meeting was adjourned at 2330hrs.

Respectfully submitted

Michael P Maston, N6OPH  
Secretary  
Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon



## From The Vice President AI6O ED



The biggest topic on all our agendas has been Firestorm 2007. My heartfelt condolences and best wishes go out to all those who have suffered loss of life, limb and/or property. What a heroic job all of our first and all responders have done through out the county. Some are still at the task as I write this, so we wish them well. I know that several of our club was evacuated from their homes, but to my knowledge no has been hurt or suffered loss of property.

I am happy to report that the ARCEC is in good shape. I have been reviewing in my mind how well the club is doing. Every month there are new members joining. Every meeting is up beat and fun to attend. Every meeting there is a special speaker or program presented on some phase of amateur radio, electronics or community service. We have several different nets, one of which is bound to catch your fancy. We have generous members ready to respond to special needs (witness last month's response to the need for new gear for Cal Fire!). We have a good place to meet. We even have good coffee and donuts (when I can beat everyone out to get my donut!!).

I guess you can tell I really enjoy ARCEC. This is my radio club! I'm a member of two other organizations, but ARCEC is my home club and the one I am committed to. I hope you all enjoy it as much. This is a radio club worth working for and supporting. There will be some elections coming soon. You need to step up to the plate and allow your name to be a candidate for some job. Good clubs just don't happen by chance. It takes work and dedication. Some of you have ridden the pine for too long and some have never taken on a responsibility. I know time is valuable and we are all busy, but let me tell you, this club is worth it! We can keep it going if more of you will volunteer when and where needed. There are bound to be some changes, but with the positive attitude of the membership of ARCEC, the faces may change a little but the positive spirit and action of the club will keep rolling along!

I challenge each of you to step up and be counted! Allow your name to be nominated. Volunteer! If elected, work your heart out—this ARCEC is worth working for and committing to. But YOU are needed!

**Straight ahead!**  
**Ed, AI6O**

### WA6BGS Nets

Mike Oberbauer:	KG6TDP	Net Manger
Mike Oberbauer:	KG6TDP	Net Controller
Frito	N6WKB	Wide Open Nets
Ed Felter	AI6O	WAMO/D

### WAMO NETS:

Wednesday and Saturday Nights  
8:00 pm local time 7:30 "Checkins"

### Tuesday Night Rag Chew net:

8:00 pm

Nets held on club repeaters

WA6BGS Repeaters

RX 147.420 (146.475) 107.2 PL

RX 224.080 – 107.2 PL

RX 445.900 – 107.2 PL

Don't miss it. All members welcome.

### New WAMO/D Net

ARCEC, San Diego Digital VHF Net

Time: 8:00 p.m.

Day: Thurs. "Except 2<sup>nd</sup> Thurs. of the month"

Mode: PSK31

Frequency: 50.290 MHz. and a QSY to 144.144 MHz

This is an open net and all are invited. Early check-ins will be taken. Hope to see you on the waterfall!

WAMO means Worked All Members Only. The purpose of WAMO is to encourage people to people communication between club members and to publicize the name of the club among fellow amateurs.

## Calendar of Events November 2007


Nov.	1:	SDDVHF PSK Net 8 PM 20.290 MHz
Nov.	3:	Swap Meet, Santee Drive In, 6:30 am
Nov.	3:	T-Hunt, Grossmont College lot, 6:00 pm
Nov.	6:	Board Meeting, 7:00 pm
Nov.	8:	General Meeting, 7:00 pm
Nov.	15:	Counterpoise Dead Line
Nov.	15:	SDDVHF PSK Net 8 PM 20.290 MHz
Nov.	17:	Swap Meet, Santee Drive In, 6:30 am
Nov.	17:	T-Hunt, Grossmont College lot, 6:00 pm
Nov.	18:	Mother Goose Parade
Nov.	22:	SDDVHF PSK Net 8 PM 20.290 MHz
Nov.	22:	Thanksgiving Day
Nov.	29:	SDDVHF PSK Net 8 PM 20.290 MHz

### Upcoming Event Dates

Dec. 18: "Tuesday" Christmas Party



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5375 Kearny Villa Road  
San Diego, CA 92123  
(858) 560-4900 or 1-800-854-6046

The Counterpoise is also online in FULL COLOR. Check it out and the club's website at: [www.wa6bgs.org](http://www.wa6bgs.org)

Get your advanced copy by e-mail. I will send it out in .PDF format the night it goes to print. E-mail me and let me know that you would like a copy. Size of file may be up to 1.5 mb at times.

## Change of Address

### Moving?

Do not miss an issue of the Counterpoise. Fill out the Change of address form below.

Call \_\_\_\_\_ WAMO# \_\_\_\_\_  
Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
New Address:  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Send to Membership Chairperson:  
A.R.C.E.C./ P.O. Box 50, El Cajon, CA 92022

### ARCEC Membership Application

1. Amateur Call Sign	2. Class of License
3. First Name	4. Last Name
5. Street Address	6. City, State, Zip+4
7. Home Phone	8. Work Phone
May we list: Y N	
9. DOB	10. e-mail
11. ARRL Member Yes no	12. ARES Member Yes No
13. RACES Member Yes No	14. Sponsored by: or Family Member

Return this form with check made payable to the Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon or ARCEC for new or renewal membership. Annual Dues \$18.00 for Individual, \$30.00 for family. New members add \$5.00 per member. Include your call on Check. Mail to  
**Membership Chairperson**  
A.R.C.E.C, P.O. Box 50, El Cajon, CA 92022

New ( ) or Renewal ( )	WAMO Number
Certificate Issued	Dues from _____ To _____
Paid Cash ( )	Check No.
Check ( )	Date Paid:

### Computer Roster Available

Want the roster sent to you via e-mail? Send an e-mail to Ann Rios KC6TBG, and she will send you the database back as an attachment. She uses Excel, but may be able to convert to various formats if asked. Send your request to 619-593-9445 or KC6TBG@cox.net

# FUN PAGE

## Birthdays November

November 6	K6TDS	Jack	Higginson
November 8	KI6GRN	Dave	Ward
November 11	KG6IMC	Joe	DeMello
November 13	WB6EWT	Miriam	DeMers
November 13	K6FT	Fredric	Taylor
November 14	KA6NFX	Ron	Jordan
November 17	WB6WSN	Ed	Price
November 17	KM6EK	Joe	Utschig
November 19	KE6TPL	Jack	Carter
November 21	NN6K	Les	Nuhn
November 24	KC6NSI	Bobbie	Hoolihan
November 26	KQ6EN	Jim	Davies
November 29	WB6RSG	Tom	Tennyson
November 30	AF6BC	Floyd	Lang
November		Evanna	Miller

## Brain Thinkers

2= C. B. as B. as O.

2 Can Be as Bad as One

3= W. in M.

3 Witches in Macbeth

31= D. in the M. O.

31 Day in the Month of October

----- This Months -----

2= L. in the H. B.

4= S. in a R.

13= O. C.



Frito Wide Open Net  
WA6BGS Repeter Tue. Night  
Freq. 147.420 8:00 pm  
Bring your Chips and sit back  
and have Fun. Open to All

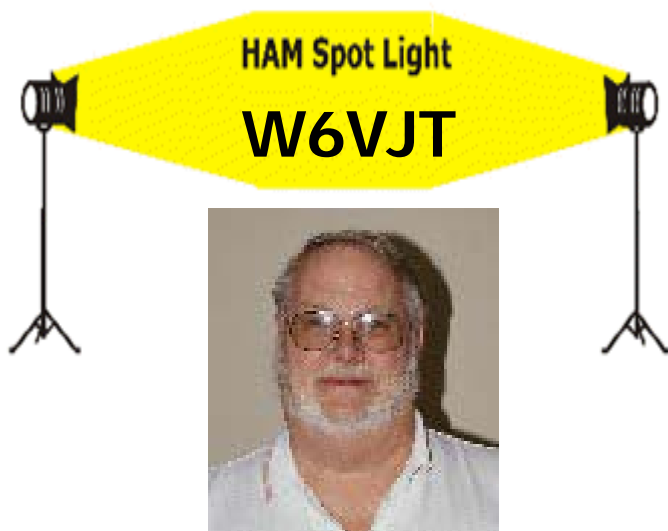
## Word Search "Turkey Day"

G N I V I G S K N A H T T C F H  
W U G C N W J Y P N C O R N U O  
S F X J D C Z X W T X G A O X M  
C R A D I O C Q K E S E A D I S E  
G T W D A L Q J P N Q T I T C B  
X P D Y N O X K S N F H T A V R  
J I T Q S N U F V A J E I C W E  
K L S C W I T W Y D Z R O A T W  
Q G E Y Z E G J G K V N N V X F  
J R T G D S Z P U Z W E S W T S  
S I N S X F U T C V F S W U R C  
D M O T H E R G O O E S R D A U  
N S C R G P W Y S T G K Y S V G  
E W Y A U G D F P C E W T Z E K  
I S G P A R A D E Y V X J Q L S  
R C J W F S Q X Z W U P Y U Z Q  
F E A S T K X J Y T S G F G X J

- |                                      |                                       |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> ANTENNA     | <input type="checkbox"/> PARADE       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> COLONIES    | <input type="checkbox"/> PARTS        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> CONTEST     | <input type="checkbox"/> PILGRIMS     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> CORN        | <input type="checkbox"/> RADIO        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> DX          | <input type="checkbox"/> THANKSGIVING |
| <input type="checkbox"/> FEAST       | <input type="checkbox"/> TOGETHERNESS |
| <input type="checkbox"/> FRIENDS     | <input type="checkbox"/> TRADITIONS   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> HOMEBREW    | <input type="checkbox"/> TRAVEL       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> INDIANS     | <input type="checkbox"/> TURKEY       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> MOTHERGOOSE | <input type="checkbox"/> VACATION     |

## Last Months Word Search

C A R M E L A P P L E L W G H J  
A W A F Y F Q K W D W M Q K L  
U Q G M Q G G H O U L S L C U A  
L C R A V E Y A R D F Y K U N K  
D O H G W F W I G A U O A R E G  
R O W Q Y L A I Q W L Q M S E W  
O D A L S M X O D A L W F E D B  
N I S F G T L W T Z M A X S A L  
Q E K W A F K E H L O K Y W D A  
L S E Y K D R E A M O D T Q G C  
W K L Q X N G N Q D N S R K S K  
A F T K Y W X Q G A Q D A F Q C  
G W O R C E R A C S L G P X F A  
M F N F D Q M Z F X M K T A Z  
K L S E H C T I W Q F T Y Q L S  
Y G Q K X A M A Y G K A G D M Y  
N I K P M U P L M A L B R E W Q



Pat Chambers, W6VJT, WAMO 1709, has been a member of the ARCEC for two years and is running for a position on the ARCEC Board in the upcoming election in December.

His dad was a Ham, initially licensed in 1939, and Pat wanted to honor his dad by acquiring his call sign, W6VJT. He grew up with metal vacuum tubes and old metal chaises as some of his toys. He became interested in commercial radio as he lived about two blocks from KCBO's transmitters and had some friends at the radio station. He took his radio telephone exams when he was a teen, went to college, joined the service and let his commercial license expire. He was derailed into healthcare compliments of Uncle Sam.

Pat recently returned to amateur radio and enjoys PSK, 20 meters, 40 meters, talking with folks around the world, and his farthest contact is Russia. He toys with some of the voice, but conditions are not back yet. He does not consider himself a "contester" but

hopes to get more involved with the public service aspect of amateur radio as time permits.

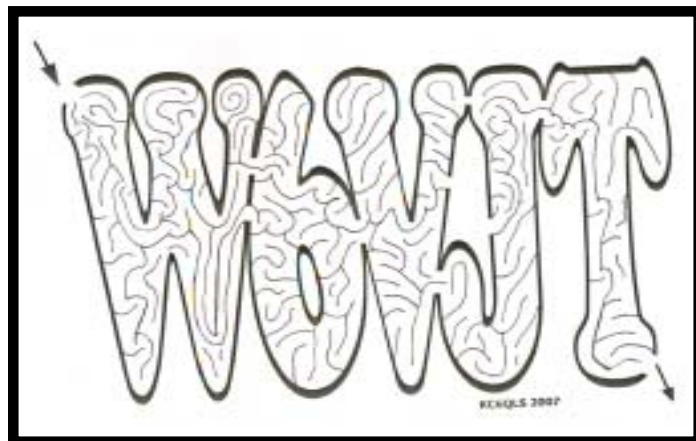
Pat recalls one fun experience was spending time on a T-Hunt with his dad and winning and then getting to hide for the T-Hunt. He says "Amateur radio is a hobby – don't lose sight of that – just have fun and enjoy! It is also a great way to give back to your community".

No longer just a voice on the radio, the Spotlight shines on W6VJT.

73!

Tassy KI6FIH

## MAZE



## Jokes

"What do you use for washing dishes?"  
"Oh, I tried many things but found my husband best."

Lisie KI6EEK

**The Editor's  
Corner  
KC6QLS Paul**



**Editor's Corner**

Thank you to all who contribute to the Counterpoise! Your articles are welcome and please submit them by the deadline date as it makes it much easier for me to get our newsletter out on time.

Please remember Ham of the Year Nominations and a brief write up stating the reason why you are nominating the individual are due by the close of the November meeting.

Paul, KC6QLS

**Public Relations**

The Fire Station Open House on October 6, 2007 was a lot of fun. We set up and worked an ARCEC booth from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. and had the opportunity to share amateur radio with our community and talk about amateur radio to a lot of parents while their kids learned about CW. Girl Scouts from Troop 6326 helped in the assembly of the CW keys and worked with kids at the booth showing them how to make and hook up the keys and to send their name in CW. Thank you to Carl Gardenias WU6D and Cathy Gardenias A6VC for their suggestion! It was a hit!

The Mother Goose Parade Float planning has begun. This year the parade theme is California Dreaming, and the parade is scheduled to have a number of TV stars. We had hoped to begin building the float this past Saturday, but due to the fires and poor air quality have postponed the date. If you would like to help, please let me know by email or call me. Thank you to our sponsor SANDARC, who has donated \$250.00 again this year to the ARCEC for the float. The parade is the November 18, 2007, the Sunday before Thanksgiving, on Main Street in El Cajon and it starts at noon. We will meet around 9:00 a.m. for final preparation. Everyone is invited to come out and join us on the parade route, and please wear your green ARCEC shirts to support amateur radio and our community.

Also, remember the Home Brew Contest at the November meeting and the Christmas Party in December.

73, Paul Rios, KC6QLS

# Volunteers Needed

## Up Coming Events

Mother Goose Parade

Please Sign up at the next meeting

## E-Mail

Address for the Counterpoise. Please submit all *Counterpoise* Mail to:

**WA6BGScounterpoise@cox.net**

## Prize Table Needs Help

Thank you for your contributions to the Prize Table! We still need your Support and Help or it may just end up a thing of the past. Please contact: Floyd Lang AF6BC at 303-6711.

## Things to keep in mind

*Get on the El Cajon ARC Reflector*

*To sign up visit:*

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/elcajonarc/>

You will get the latest news about The Club and things going on in the Ham world.

## Quote of the Month

"Man is the measure of all things."

- Protagoras *Fragment 1*

For Amateur Radio Public Relations San Diego  
Please visit  
[www.arprsd.org](http://www.arprsd.org)





# Crest Radio Museum

Pat Bunsold, WA6MHZ



Many who read the short story "THE DREAM" a few months back in Counterpoise will remember one of the main players in the story was a Radio called the Johnson Adventurer. It was responsible for providing something to stand on to climb up on top of a Collins KWS-1 in order to escape from the basement after a tornado wiped out the house. It was placed on the National HRO to stand on. Well, today I found out a flaw in the story. The Adventurer is not a radio you want to stand on, especially placing 250 lbs on! The National would take it. But the Adventurer, made out of thin aluminum, would easily crumble. OH, the license of Fiction!!

Normally, our ARC of El Cajon Swapmeet at the Santee Drive-in is a little thin on vintage radios, but there are times when incredible finds can be ferreted out of it. Today was just such a day. A seller had 4 radios for sale on his table. I could not tell if he was a Ham, but he did seem to know the value of them. Besides the Johnson was a Heathkit DX-40 and 2 vintage Cbs, a Lafayette and a very rare WRL CB. Not having much money or space, I settled for the WRL and Johnson. The Heathkit was in terrible shape as was the rest. They must have been sitting out in the rain for the past 50 years!!! WHY do people do things to classic radios like this??? Everything that could rust did, and the paint had more than oxidized. Looking at the PIC of the Adventurer, you see it as a yellowish aluminum with a purple sprayed area for the dial and knob settings. However, upon checking on the net, the real Adventurer was not these colors, but had a Purple background and a grey highlighted area. Evidently, all the purple wore off as did the grey, leaving a negative style

coloring, still readable and usable. Inside, the Main Variable Cap was rusted solid as were every screw and the transformer. I surveyed the remnants and asked WHY I paid \$30 for this? Because it is RARE! And a Johnson Adventurer in ANY condition is better than NO Adventurer!

The Adventurer was an entry level Novice CW transmitter from 1953 using a 6AG7 Oscillator driving a 807 final. It was good for 22W on 40M according to the Internet. This one has a long ways to go before it is plugged in. Yes, the power cord was cut off! I haven't gotten to the WRL CB, but it will be another Adventure in restoration! It does have the power cord, but not a chance I will just "plug it in!" This is probably the only WRL CB left on the planet, but there are lots more Adventurers around. And now I have one too. I just won't stand on it!

73!

Pat WA6MHZ

Curator

Crest Radio Museum



# Chicken Noodle Soup for the Ham Radio Operator's Soul

“Amateur Radio Hobby in Television Series Spotlight”

*Turmoil and change have shaken the ranks of our hobby in recent years. Controversy over incentive licensing, the role of the code, and concern over the dwindling ranks of our hobby have caused angst and sown the seeds of division among hams, young and old. Now, with the spring of renewal in Cycle 23 upon us, it is time for a healing catharsis for our hobby, with “Chicken Noodle Soup for the Ham Radio Operator’s Soul”.*

A new partnership between the ARRL and youth-oriented television network MTV has resulted in the creation of a youth-oriented television show, aimed at recruiting prospective young hams. The TV show, “Pimp My Radio” is modeled after MTV and other youth-oriented media entertainment, and is focused on customizing electronic Amateur Radios.

The show is set in the quiet, small town setting of Newington, Connecticut, and interviews newly-licensed, young Hams who have just upgraded their Amateur Radio licenses. The young Hams, approached at the site of a local Ham Radio “VE Testing” event, are taken aside by MTV on-air rock music celebrities, and asked questions about the type and quality of radio equipment they are operating.

The young operator’s responses are surprising to the typical, aging Ham Radio operator composing the present ranks of the Amateur Radio hobby. “My Ham radio? You’ve got to be kidding. My dad gave me this old, beat up Heathkit SB103. The knobs are big and green. It is so ugly! Ya read me, dog?” responds one teen-age Ham operator.” “That’s nothing!” chimes in another youthful female Ham. “My radio is so old, it doesn’t even send sideband – it sends CW!” “Eeeewe !” rings out from a chorus of gathered young Amateur Radio prospects, just released from the VE session and completely unfamiliar with Morse Code. Another youthful operator responds “Dude, my radio is so ugly, when I get on the air, even the sunspots head for the hills.” Once a suitable candidate has been selected by a panel of MTV celebrities, and approval obtained from the operator’s parents, the young Ham’s radio is whisked off to the site of the ARRL’s self-described “Monster Electronics

Lab”, staffed by ARRL Technical Director Dr. Ed “Bugs” Bunny WH2ARE and a cadre of thirty-something League assistants.

The assistants, sporting spiked, multicolored hair styles and electronic schematic tattoos, hardly look the image of straight-laced, conservative League Founder Hiram Percy Maxim. Most staffers at the League do not appear to notice. Director “Bugs” comments that “long ago, the League learned the standard uniform of electronics aficionados - flat-top haircuts, horn rimmed glasses, and pocket protectors, were one of the most effective deterrents to youth, known to man. In addition, focus group interviews revealed that this beloved wardrobe of choice for generations of Hams was acting like a sort of *kryptonite* for the Ham hobby”. “Bugs” reveals past League President Jim Hainie KC1H and his passion for skateboarding turned around thinking at the ARRL about attracting youthful Hams. While many members recall Hainie as mild mannered, many at League headquarters recall a different Hainie, instead referring to Hainie as “wild-mannered”, inclined to ride his skateboard to work at League headquarters on warm spring mornings.

Back inside the “Monster Lab” in Newington, the youthful, on-the edge ARRL team sets to work with a pre-project meeting to insure all are on the same “page”. A summary discussion takes place regarding project objectives, schematics, component selections. Team leader “Bugs” Bunny quips his famous line; “Time to make the damage count” and the team starts the process of upgrading the electronic receiving and transmitting capabilities of the once-modest radios. Non-adjustable, crystal frequency controls are switched to state of the art, tunable, variable frequency oscillators (VFOs). Radios are equipped with sophisticated, electronic filtering, allowing young operators to receive radio signals without the unpleasant effects of interference from adjacent transmitted signals.

Once the basic electronics have been upgraded, specialists are brought in to address that critical issue of importance to youthful radio operators - the outer appearance of the equipment. Experts in custom paint, detailing and metallurgy are brought in to refurbish the all-important cabinet. During a recent visit to the “Monster Labs”, one such team was observed refurbishing the outside of a once-homely Heathkit transmitter & receiver combination. Color selection

# Chicken Noodle Soup Continued

was agreed upon by a focus group of youthful Ham Radio operators. Once primed and painted with metal flake fire engine red, the rig cabinets were customized with airbrushed skulls and flames. The dated, plastic green knobs were replaced with custom machined chrome knobs.

Remodeling and refurbishing completed, the newly-customized radio is wheeled out in an ARRL studio where the young Hams and parents are filmed for their reactions before a youthful studio audience. The youthful audience and radio owners scream with delight as the radios are uncovered to reveal the hip, trendy electronic circuitry and custom cabinetry. The audience croons with "oohs" and "aaahs" as the youthful operators sit down to spin the dials on the transceivers and flip switches. Presenting the new equipment is ARRL President Dr. J. Hammond Swiss W3HOS. The youthful Ham's reactions represent a challenge to the older generation at League headquarters. The reactions taped at one such installment are typical of the series. With the cabinet removed to display the handiwork of the ARRL "Monster Labs", League President Swiss asks the youthful Ham what she thinks of her new radio. *"Those are kick-butt butterfly capacitors, dude"* Responds the young Ham. Swiss looks into the camera blankly, at a loss for words. Before Swiss can respond, the young Ham adds *"That's the bomb, right there"* pointing at the circuitry partially hidden by the dazzling cabinet. The refurbished equipment can be a Ham-career changing experience for the youthful operators. When Swiss asks one young Ham if the new equipment might cause him to re-consider his stated dislike for CW, he responds without hesitation *"Hell, yeah!"* The youthful audience roars it's approval.

Next, it's the adult's turn to scream when the total cost of "monster" electronics remodel are revealed. The price of the Ham "build" is detailed on a giant tally board for the Ham parents and the studio audience to see. Item by item, the costs are revealed. As each component re-build and associated engineering and lab time are revealed, the parents appear increasingly pale and faint. Finally, the tally is capped with electronics technician labor bringing the total tally to a healthy \$32,000. The price revealed, and adults not yet informed the cost of the upgrade will be paid by ARRL, the adults also start screaming. Off-stage, a pair of Newington EMTs stand by, complete with a fully-equipped defibrillator and gurney ready to be pressed into service. The defibrillator proves unnecessary; as

parents learn the costly upgrades will be paid by ARRL members. The show ends with the young Hams, gathered together as a group, screaming *"Thanks, ARRL for pimping my radio!"*

*Editor's note: Thankfully, the League isn't really behind "Pimp My Radio" and other youth-oriented television programs on MTV. However, the League is working to spark renewed interest in Amateur Radio and electronics. "Chicken Noodle Soup" readers can help by making a contribution to the ARRL Education & Technology Program at the League's secure website: [www.arrl.org/education](http://www.arrl.org/education).*

Morris AZ6CW

## VEC Testing Sites

1 <sup>st</sup> Saturday:	El Cajon 10:00 am First Lutheran Church of EC 867 South Lincoln Ave.
2 <sup>nd</sup> Saturday:	Carlsbad 9:30 am Carlsbad Safety Center Orion Way Carlsbad
3 <sup>rd</sup> Saturday:	North Park 10:00 am North Park Recreation Center 4044 Idaho Street San Diego
4 <sup>th</sup> Saturday:	Chula Vista 8:30 am Fire Station #7 1640 Santa Venetia Chula Vista
5 <sup>th</sup> or last Saturday:	Escondido 9:00 am LDS Church 1917 East Washington St.

To make advance reservations or to find out more info from the site captain, please call 465-EXAM (3926)

## CHP Mobile Command SUV





## Amateur Radio At Large

From Rich N6NKJ



Hello again,

At last month's meeting everyone learned that both proposals for new radio equipment for CAL FIRE were voted down by the members of SANDARC, which is shocking to me in light of the devastating wildfires that have once again consumed a large amount of land, homes, and killed and injured many people.

However, Paul Schmidt, K6PKS, said his club is going to help out with funding from the race they held in October. This money will go to buy the new radios for CAL FIRE. If any additional money is raised, it will be used to buy additional accessories or for the upkeep of the equipment. I thank all of the members of SANDARC who voted to buy the equipment for CAL FIRE; we almost did it.

Due to the fires, The Old Time Car Parade in Lakeside has been rescheduled for a later date, and we will be assisting our friends in REACT. I will, of course, let everyone know when this will take place. Speaking of the wild land fires, I once again was proud of the response of the San Diego County amateur radio operators who volunteered. Many of these "heroes" worked very long hours at the different shelters, hospitals, the MOC, and as net control operators.

As always, remember our brave men and women in our armed forces and let's not forget the brave firefighters and law enforcement officers who went above and beyond the call of duty.

Until next time, 73's  
Rich, N6NKJ

## Membership Report

Thank you to all members who continue to renew their membership timely. It is appreciated and your dues support our club.

Please check the mailing label on your Counterpoise. If your membership has expired, please take a moment to complete and return the Renewal Application located within this Counterpoise.

73 Ann, KC6TBG

## Fire Station 6 Open House





## Reports Continued

*Continued from Page 2*

SANDARC meeting on September 27, 2007. As members who were at our long September 13, 2007 meeting know, there was also a 38 page proposal brought to SANDARC by the CERO club to purchase similar equipment. SANDARC voted and the CERO Proposal had 3 for, 10 against and 2 abstentions for a total of 15 votes. ARCEC proposal had 8 for, 5 against and 2 abstentions for a total of 15 votes. Unfortunately, because neither proposal passed by the 2/3 vote required by SANDARC Bylaws, no money will be provided by SANDARC for the purchase of amateur radio equipment to be used by the VIP Red Flag Patrol Program. I am sad to report, and it is very unfortunate, that the ARCEC was not successful in obtaining funds to purchase amateur radio equipment for the VIP Red Flag Patrol Program. As you read in my last column, I was very hopeful that the ARCEC would be able to help the VIP Red Flag Patrol Program by obtaining funds from SANDARC to purchase amateur radio equipment for this program.

However, I am optimistic that the ARCEC can still help the VIP Red Flag Patrol Program by obtaining \$2,100.00 in donations and purchasing the amateur radio equipment for this program. At our October 11, 2007 meeting, we took a donation for this fund and collected \$100.00. In the mail, we received an additional generous donation from Ken Cohen KI6HRH so we presently have \$300.00 towards our goal. I would request donations from ARCEC members, non-members and the community to go towards the remaining \$1,800.00 needed to purchase amateur radio equipment for the VIP Red Flag Patrol Program.

For those who may not know about the VIP Red Flag Patrol Program, please see the October 2007 Counterpoise article "What Is VIP Red Flag Patrol?" In this article Roxanne Provaznik, Fire Prevention Specialist II, with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, also known as CAL FIRE, explained the role of amateur radio operators in this vital program. With the recent fires, amateur radio operators' role in a

prevention program of this type is very clear and amateur radio operators are needed to participate in this prevention program. Therefore, I would ask for donations to help the ARCEC reach our goal so that we can purchase amateur radio equipment for the VIP Red Flag Patrol Program. Donations in any amount would be very much appreciated and can be mailed to the club address or brought to our club meetings.

Lastly, I am looking forward to running for President again this year and would ask for your support and vote. This is your club and together I believe the ARCEC can accomplish its goals, support our community, and promote amateur radio as both a hobby and a service. Let's continue to have fun as we move in a positive direction with amateur radio.

73, Paul Rios, KC6QLS President



Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon  
P.O. Box 50  
El Cajon, CA 92022



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### Is your membership ready to expire?

Take a look on your mailing label. Is the expiration date in 2006? Does it say EXPIRED? That means it's time to mail in your yearly dues. Please take time to fill out the membership application in this newsletter, and mail it in, or bring it to the next meeting.



Amateur Radio ... A National Resource